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(54) Title: HEAT SEALABLE FILMS			
(57) Abstract <p>This invention relates to a film comprising a blend comprising: (i) a homopolymer of ethylene having an Mw/Mn of 3 or less or a copolymer of ethylene and up to 50 weight % of a C₃ to C₂₀ olefin having a CDBI of 50 % or more, (ii) a homopolymer of propylene or copolymer of propylene and up to 50 weight % of a comonomer, and (iii) a polymer produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator. In a preferred embodiment the blend comprises mPE, LDPE and isotactic PP.</p>			

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HEAT SEALABLE FILMS

Field of the Invention

- 5 This invention relates to films comprising a blend comprising metallocene polyethylene (mPE), polypropylene and free radically high pressure produced polymers.

Background of the Invention

- 10 Polyethylene has traditionally been used as a layer in polyolefin films and packaging because of its desirable properties such as moisture impermeability good sealing behavior, good optical properties and good organoleptics. Typically polyethylene has been coextruded, laminated or otherwise bonded to other polyolefins which have better strength than polyethylene, yet do not seal as well
- 15 as polyethylene. For example, in a typical multilayer film, a polypropylene layer, especially a mono or biaxially oriented polypropylene (OPP) layer, provides a high clarity, high melting, high barrier properties, combined with high stiffness, while a polyethylene layer will provide extra body to the film and will allow a low sealing temperature, meaning higher packaging speeds. However, polypropylene
- 20 (PP) and polyethylene (PE) have very limited compatibility and direct sealing of polyethylene onto polypropylene film is not commonly done. When a layer of PE is combined with a layer of PP, extra primer may be needed. For example, extra primer is used when polyethylene, such as low density polyethylene, is coated onto polypropylene films. In addition tie layers may also be necessary.
- 25 Coextrudable tie layers such as ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, typically having more than 8 weight % vinyl acetate, have been extruded between PP and PE to enhance adhesion between the PE and the PP. Another solution to the compatibility problem has been to blend polypropylene into the polyethylene. This however has the disadvantage of creating layers that have greater haze and
- 30 are thus undesirable in the industry.

Therefore there is a need in the art to provide a means to provide a polyethylene polypropylene blend for film layers that does not have haze, yet retains good mechanical properties such as impact strength.

- 35 WO 94/26816 discloses blends of metallocene polyethylene and high molecular weight high density polyethylene for use in films.

Summary of the Invention

This invention relates to a film comprising a blend of:

- (i) a homopolymer of ethylene having an Mw/Mn of 3 or less or a copolymer of ethylene and up to 50 weight % of a C₃ to C₂₀ olefin, wherein the copolymer has a CDBI of 50 % or more, preferably 60% or more;
- (ii) a homopolymer of propylene or a copolymer of propylene and up to 50 weight % of a comonomer, preferably copolymerized with ethylene and/or a C₄ to C₂₀ olefin; and
- (iii) a polymer produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator (High Pressure Polymer).

This invention also relates to films as described above where one or more layers are oriented in one or more directions to the same or different extents.

Detailed Description of the Invention

In a preferred embodiment, this invention relates to a film comprising a blend of:

- (i) a homopolymer of ethylene having an Mw/Mn of 3 or less, preferably between 1 and 2.5 or a copolymer of ethylene and up to 50 weight %, preferably 1 to 35 weight %, preferably 1-20 weight % of one or more C₃ to C₂₀ olefins, (based upon the weight of the copolymer) having an Mw/Mn of 6 or less, preferably 3 or less, even more preferably between 1 and 2.5, wherein the polymer or copolymer preferably has:
 - a) a density of 0.86 g/cm³ to 0.96 g/cm³, preferably 0.88 to 0.94 g/cm³, more preferably between 0.88 g/cm³ and 0.935 g/cm³, more preferably between 0.88 g/cm³ and 0.95 g/cm³, more preferably between 0.915 g/cm³ and 0.935 g/cm³; and
 - b) a CDBI of 50 % or more, preferably above 60%;
- (ii) a homopolymer of propylene or a copolymer of propylene and up to 50 weight %, preferably 1 to 35 weight %, even more preferably 1 to 6 weight % of ethylene and/or a C₄ to C₂₀ olefin; and
- (iii) a polymer produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator (High Pressure Polymer).

Composition Distribution Breadth Index (CDBI) is a measure of the composition distribution of monomer within the polymer chains and is measured by the procedure described in PCT publication WO 93/03093, published February 18, 1993 including that fractions having a weight average molecular weight (Mw) below 15,000 are

ignored when determining CDBI. For purposes of this invention a homopolymer is defined to have a CDBI of 100%.

The C₃ to C₂₀ and C₄ to C₂₀ olefin comonomers for the polyethylene or polypropylene copolymers described above may be any polymerizable olefin monomer and are preferably a linear, branched or cyclic olefin, even more preferably an α -olefin. Examples of suitable olefins include propylene, butene, isobutylene, pentene, isopentene, cyclopentene, hexene, isohexene, cyclohexene, heptene, isoheptene, cycloheptene, octene, isooctene, cyclooctene, nonene, cyclononene, decene, isodecene, dodecene, isodecene, 4-methyl-pentene-1, 3-methyl-pentene-1, 3,5,5-trimethyl hexene-1. Suitable comonomers also include dienes, trienes, and styrenic monomers. Preferred examples include styrene, α -methyl styrene, para-alkyl styrene (such as para-methyl styrene), hexadiene, norbornene, vinyl norbornene, ethylidene norbornene, butadiene, isoprene, heptadiene, octadiene, and cyclopentadiene.

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Preferred comonomers for the copolymer of ethylene are propylene, butene, hexene and/or octene.

The polyethylene or polypropylene copolymers described above may also contain termonomers and tetramonomers which may be one or more of the C₃ to C₂₀ olefins described above, any C₄ to C₃₀ linear, cyclic or branched dienes or trienes and any styrenic monomers such as styrene, α -methyl styrene, or para-methyl styrene. Preferred examples include butadiene, pentadiene, cyclopentadiene, hexadiene, cyclohexadiene, heptadiene, octadiene, nonadiene, norbornene, vinyl norbornene, ethylidene norbornene, isoprene and heptadiene.

25

The polyethylene copolymers described above preferably have a composition distribution breadth index (CDBI) of 50 % or more, preferably above 60%, even more preferably above 70%. In one embodiment the CDBI is above 80%, even more preferably above 90%, even more preferably above 95%. In another particularly preferred embodiment, the polyethylene copolymer has a CDBI between 60 and 85 %, even more preferably between 65 and 85 %.

30

In a particularly preferred embodiment the ethylene homopolymer or copolymer has a CDBI of 65 to 85 %, a density of 0.915 to 0.96 g/cm³ and a Mw/Mn between 1 and 2.5.

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In another preferred embodiment the ethylene homopolymer or copolymer has a density of 0.86 to 0.925 g/cm³ and a CDBI of over 80%, preferably between 80 and 99%.

In another preferred embodiment the blend comprises a homopolymer of ethylene having an Mw/Mn of 3 or less, preferably between 2.5 and 1.

In general, the polyethylene homopolymers and copolymers described above are metallocene polyethylenes (mPE's). The mPE homopolymers or copolymers are typically produced using mono- or bis-cyclopentadienyl transition metal catalysts in combination with an activator such as alumoxane and/or a non-coordinating anion in solution, slurry, high pressure or gas phase. The catalyst and activator may be supported or unsupported and the cyclopentadienyl rings by may be substituted or unsubstituted. Several commercial products produced with such catalyst/activator combinations are commercially available from Exxon Chemical Company in Baytown Texas under the tradenames EXCEED™ and EXACT™. For more information on the methods and catalysts/activators to produce such mPE homopolymers and copolymers see WO 94/26816; WO 94/03506; EPA 277,003; EPA 277,004; US 5,153,157; US 5,198,401; US 5,240,894; US 5,017,714; CA 1,268,753; US 5,324,800; EPA 129,368; US 5,264,405; EPA 520,732; WO 92/00333; US 5,096,867; US 5,507,475; EPA 426 637; EPA 573 403; EPA 520 732; EPA 495 375; EPA 500 944; EPA 570 982; WO91/09882; WO94/03506 and US 5,055,438.

The polypropylene homopolymer or copolymer preferably has an MFR (melt flow rate) of 1 to 20 as measured according to ASTM D 1238 (230 °C, 2.16 kg). In another embodiment the polypropylene homopolymer or copolymer preferably has a CDBI of 50 % or more, preferably above 60%, even more preferably above 70 %. Polypropylenes having a CDBI above 60% are available from Exxon Chemical Company in Baytown, Texas under the tradename ACHIEVE™.

In another embodiment the polypropylene homopolymer or copolymer can be blended with any of the other propylene homopolymers or copolymers described above. Likewise, The polyethylene homopolymers or copolymers described above for use in the blend may be used alone, may be blended with any of the other polyethylene homopolymers or copolymers described above.

In a preferred embodiment the polymer produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator (High Pressure Polymer) is a polymer comprising one or more of C2 to C20 olefins and polar monomers. Preferred C2 to C20 olefins include, but are not limited to, ethylene, propylene, butene, pentene, hexene, octene, 3-methyl-pentene-1, 4-methyl-pentene-1, cyclopentene, cyclohexene, hexadiene, norbornene, isobutene, norbornadiene, pentadiene and 3,5,5-trimethyl hexene -1. Preferred polar monomers include, but are not limited to, acetates (such as vinyl acetate), acrylics (such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid), acrylates (such as methacrylate, butylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, hydroxyethylmethacrylate). Polar modifiers can also be used in high pressure free radical process such as alcohols (such as isopropanol) or aldehydes (such as acetaldehyde). Other modifiers known in the art can also be used.

In a preferred embodiment the High Pressure Polymer is low density polyethylene (density 0.910 to less than 0.940 g/cm³, preferably 0.915 to less than 0.935 g/cm³, Even more preferably 0.920 to less than 0.935 g/cm³), a copolymer of ethylene and vinyl acetate, a copolymer of ethylene and methyl acrylate, a copolymer of acrylic acid, a copolymer of methylmethacrylate or any other polymers polymerizable by a high-pressure free radical process. The LDPE preferably has up to 20 weight % of comonomer. The EVA and acrylate copolymers preferably has 20 weight % of the polar monomer or less, preferably less than 10 weight %, even more preferably less than 6 weight %. In a preferred embodiment the Melt Index of the LDPE is between 0.2 and 50 g/10 min, preferably between 0.5 and 10 g/10 min, even more preferably between 0.6 and 5 g/10 min, even more preferably between 0.6 and 2.5 g/10 min.

Many such High Pressure Polymers are commercially available. For example, LDPE made in a high pressure process is available from Exxon Chemical Company under the trade name ESCORENE™. EVA made in a high pressure process is available from Exxon Chemical Company under the trade name ESCORENE™.

Polymethylmethacrylate made in a high pressure process is available from Exxon Chemical Company under the trade name ESCORENE™.

In a preferred embodiment the polyethylene (component (i)) is present in the blend at from 1 to 99 weight %, based upon the weight of the polymers in the blend, preferably the polyethylene is present at 10 to 90 weight %, even more

preferably at least 20 to 80 weight %, even more preferably at least 30 to 70 weight %, even more preferably at least 40 to 70 weight %.

- 5 In a preferred embodiment the polypropylene (component (ii)) is present in the blend at from 1 to 99 weight %, based upon the weight of the polymers in the blend, preferably the polypropylene is present at 10 to 90 weight %, even more preferably at least 20 to 80 weight %, even more preferably at least 30 to 70 weight %, even more preferably at least 40 to 70 weight %.

- 10 In a preferred embodiment the High Pressure Polymer (component (iii)) is present in the blend at from 1 to 50 weight %, based upon the weight of the polymers in the blend, preferably at 2 to 30 weight %, even more preferably at least 5 to 20 weight %.

- 15 The blends described above can also further include other polymers such as polybutene, high density polyethylene (density 0.945 to less than 0.98 g/cm³) linear low density polyethylene, medium density polyethylene (density 0.935 to less than 0.945 g/cm³), polyvinylchloride, isotactic polybutene, ABS resins, elastomers such as ethylene-propylene rubber (EPR), vulcanized EPR, EPDM, 20 block copolymer elastomers such as SBS, nylons, polycarbonates, PET resins, crosslinked polyethylene, copolymers of ethylene and vinyl alcohol (EVOH), polymers of aromatic monomers such as polystyrene, poly-esters, graft copolymers generally, polyacrylonitrile homopolymer or copolymers, thermoplastic polyamides, polyacetal, polyvinylidene fluoride and other 25 fluorinated elastomers, polyethylene glycols and polyisobutylene.

- The blends described above may be produced by mixing the three (or more) polymers together, by connecting reactors together in series to make reactor blends or by using more than one catalyst in the same reactor to produce multiple 30 species of polymer. The polymers can be mixed together prior to being put into an extruder or may be mixed or compounded in an extruder.

- The blends described above are typically formed into monolayer or multilayer films. These films may be formed by any of the conventional techniques known 35 in the art including extrusion, co-extrusion, extrusion coating, lamination, blowing and casting. The film may be obtained by the flat film or tubular process which

may be followed by orientation in an uniaxial direction or in two mutually perpendicular directions in the plane of the film.

In a preferred embodiment a film of the blend is used as a sealing layer. In another preferred embodiment a film of the blend is used as that functional layer, that is to say it is used to provide mechanical strength and/or stiffness. Films of the blends described herein have excellent stiffness and mechanical strength as compared to films of the individual components.

This invention also relates to films as described above where one or more of the layers are oriented in the transverse and/or longitudinal directions to the same or different extents. This orientation may occur before or after the individual layers are brought together. For example the blend layer can be extrusion coated or laminated onto another layer or the layers can be coextruded together into a film then oriented.

Typically the films are oriented in the Machine Direction (MD) at a ratio of up to 15, preferably between 5 and 7, and in the Transverse Direction (TD) at a ratio of up to 15 preferably 7 to 9. However in another embodiment the film is oriented to the same extent in both the MD and TD directions. Orientation to the same extent in both directions will generally produce roughly equal mechanical properties.

In another embodiment the blend layer is combined with one or more other layers. The other layer(s) may be any layer typically included in multilayer film structures. For example the other layer or layers may be:

1. Polyolefins. Preferred polyolefins include homopolymers or copolymers of C₂ to C₄₀ olefins, preferably C₂ to C₂₀ olefins, preferably a copolymer of an α -olefin and another olefin or α -olefin (ethylene is defined to be an α -olefin for purposes of this invention). Preferably homopolyethylene, homopolypropylene, propylene copolymerized with ethylene and/or butene, ethylene copolymerized with one or more of propylene, butene or hexene, and optional dienes. Preferred examples include thermoplastic polymers such as ultra low density polyethylene, very low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, medium density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polypropylene, isotactic polypropylene, highly isotactic polypropylene, syndiotactic polypropylene, random copolymer of propylene and ethylene and/or butene and/or hexene, elastomers such as ethylene propylene rubber, ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber, neoprene, and blends of thermoplastic

polymers and elastomers, such as for example, thermoplastic elastomers and rubber toughened plastics.

2. Polar polymers

5 Preferred polar polymers include homopolymers and copolymers of esters, amides, acetates, anhydrides, copolymers of a C₂ to C₂₀ olefin, such as ethylene and/or propylene and/or butene with one or more polar monomers such as acetates, anhydrides, esters, alcohol, and/or acrylics. Preferred examples include polyesters, polyamides, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, and polyvinyl chloride.

3. Cationic polymers

Preferred cationic polymers include polymers or copolymers of geminally disubstituted olefins, alpha-heteroatom olefins and/or styrenic monomers. Preferred geminally disubstituted olefins include isobutylene, isopentene, isoheptene, isohexane, isooctene, isodecene, and isododecene. Preferred alpha-heteroatom olefins include vinyl ether and vinyl carbazole, preferred styrenic monomers include styrene, alkyl styrene, para-alkyl styrene, alpha-methyl styrene, chloro-styrene, and bromo-para-methyl styrene. Preferred examples of cationic polymers include butyl rubber, isobutylene copolymerized with para methyl styrene, polystyrene, and poly- α -methyl styrene.

4. Miscellaneous

Other preferred layers can be paper, wood, cardboard, metal, metal foils (such as aluminum foil and tin foil), metallized surfaces, glass (including silicon oxide (SiO_x) coatings applied by evaporating silicon oxide onto a film surface), fabric, spunbonded fibers, and non-wovens (particularly polypropylene spun bonded fibers or non-wovens), and substrates coated with inks, dyes, pigments, PVDC and the like.

Further any of the above layers may be oriented before or after being combined with the blend layers.

30 A particularly preferred embodiment includes an ABC structure film where the A layer comprises mPE or a blend comprising mPE and the B layer is a blend according to this invention and the C layer is a sealing layer for example a random copolymer of propylene and up to 20 weight % of ethylene, preferably 3 to 6 weight % ethylene, even more preferably 3.5 to 5.5 weight % ethylene, or a terpolymer of propylene, ethylene and butene.

In a preferred embodiment up to 100 μm thick monolayer films of the blend described above are characterized by a haze, as measured by ASTM 1003 condition A of 16% or less, more preferably 14% or less, more preferably 12 % or less, more preferably 10% or less, even more preferably 5% or less.

5 The films described herein may vary in thickness depending on the intended application, however films of a thickness from 1 to 350 μm are usually suitable. Films intended for packaging are usually from 10 to 120 μm thick. The thickness of the sealing layer is typically 0.2 to 50 μm . There may be a sealing layer on both the inner and outer surfaces of the film or the sealing layer may be present on only the inner or
10 the outer surface.

Additives such as antiblock, antioxidants, pigments, fillers, processing aids, UV stabilizers, neutralizers, lubricants, surfactants and/or nucleating agents may also
15 be present in one or more than one layer in the films. Preferred additives include silicon dioxide, titanium dioxide, polydimethylsiloxane, talc, dyes, wax, calcium stearate, carbon black, low molecular weight resins, tackifiers, and glass beads.

In another embodiment the layers may be modified by corona treatment, electron
20 beam irradiation, gamma irradiation, or microwave. In particular the corona treatment will produce a significant difference in the coefficient of friction of the two surface layers as described in US Patent Application Number USSN 08/905,211, which is incorporated by reference herein.

25 In a particularly preferred embodiment film of the blends described herein are cast, blown or co-extruded and the polyethylene is present at 50 to 80 weight %, the polypropylene is present at 10 to 45 weight% and polymer produced in high pressure process using a free radical initiator is LDPE and is present at 2 to 10 weight%, based upon the weight of the blend.

30 In another embodiment films of the blends described herein are laminated to a substrate. Preferred substrates include polypropylene, polyamide, polyester, polyethylene, or metallized substrates.

35 The films described herein may also comprise from 5 to 60 weight% based upon the weight of the polymer and the resin, of a hydrocarbon resin. The resin preferably has a softening point above 100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, even more preferably from 130 to 180 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, even more

preferably between 140 and 180 °C. Preferred hydrocarbon resins include those described in EPA 288.227 and EPA 247.898. These films comprising a hydrocarbon resin may be oriented in uniaxial or biaxial directions to the same or different degrees.

5 In a preferred embodiment this invention also relates to a method to produce a film characterized by good haze values comprising:

- i) selecting a first polymer having a CDBI of 50 % or more comprising homopolyethylene or a copolymer of ethylene and up to 50 weight % of a C₃ to C₂₀ olefin,
- 10 ii) selecting a second polymer comprising homopolypropylene or a copolymer of propylene and up to 50 weight % of ethylene or a C₄ to C₂₀ olefin,
- iii) selecting a third polymer comprising one or more polymers produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator, and
- iv) combining the first, second and third polymers and forming them into a film.

15 In a preferred embodiment this invention also relates to a method of packaging an article comprising:

- i) selecting a first polymer having a CDBI of 50 % or more comprising homopolyethylene or a copolymer of ethylene and up to 50 weight % of a C₃ to C₂₀ olefin,
- 20 ii) selecting a second polymer comprising homopolypropylene or a copolymer of propylene and up to 50 weight % of ethylene or a C₄ to C₂₀ olefin,
- iii) selecting optional polymers for core layers,
- iv) combining the first polymer and second polymer so that the first polymer forms all or part of a film surface layer and the second polymer forms all or part of a film surface layer and; if present, the optional polymers for core layers are formed into film layers in between the first surface layer and the second surface layer,
- 25 v) enclosing an article in the film; and
- vi) heat sealing the enclosed article such that at least one seal is formed by heat sealing the first surface layer to the second surface layer.

In a preferred embodiment the films formed from the blends described herein when formed into a film 50 µm thick film have an average secant modulus greater than 350 MPa and a dart drop impact strength greater than 5 g/micron.

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Additionally, the film produced herein can be laminated with another film such as polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, polyamides and the like which may or may not be oriented. These combinations are particularly suitable for high quality packaging performance such as modified atmosphere packaging or controlled atmosphere packaging.

The films produced herein may be used for typical packaging applications, form fill and seal applications, cling films, stretch films, frozen film, heavy duty packaging film, can liners and other similar applications.

Examples

MATERIALS:

ECD 109 is an ethylene hexene copolymer produced in the gas phase having about 4.1 weight % hexene, a melt index of about 0.8 g/10min, a CDBI of about 59, an Mw/Mn of about 2.3 and a density of about 0.928 g/cm³, sold under the tradename EXCEED™ by Exxon Chemical Company in Baytown, Texas.

ECD 103 is an ethylene hexene copolymer produced in the gas phase having approximately 7.6 weight % hexene, a melt index of about 1 g/10min, a Mw/Mn of about 2.3, a CDBI of about 67% and a density of about 0.917 g/cm³, sold under the tradename EXCEED™ by Exxon Chemical Company in Baytown, Texas.

ECD 202 is an ethylene hexene copolymer produced in the gas phase having approximately 7.6 weight % hexene, a melt index of about 2.4 g/10min, a Mw/Mn of about 2.3, a CDBI of about 67% and a density of about 0.917 g/cm³, sold under the tradename EXCEED™ by Exxon Chemical Company in Baytown, Texas.

PP-1 is a homopolymer of propylene having a Melt Index of about 2.9 g/10 min and a broad molecular weight distribution (Mw/Mn) sold under the trade name of ESCORENE PP 4352F1 by Exxon Chemical Company.

LD-2 is a low density polyethylene having a density of about 0.922 g/cm³ and a melt index of about 0.75 g/10 min commercially available under the trade name ESCORENE LD 150 BW from Exxon Chemical Belgium.

LL-3 is ESCORENE LLN 1201 XV a ethylene butene copolymer having a Melt Index of about 0.7 g/10 min, a density of 0.925 g/cm³ and produced in a gas phase

using a Ziegler Natta catalyst and is commercially available from Exxon Chemical Belgium.

TESTING METHODS:

- 5 **Composition Distribution Breadth Index (CDBI)** is measured by the procedure described in PCT publication WO 93/03093, published February 18, 1993. Fractions having a molecular weight (Mw) less than 15,000 were ignored. **Melt Index (MI)** was measured according to ASTM D 1238: (190 °C, 2.16 kg) **Density** was measured according to ASTM D1505, where the sample was
10 prepared according to ASTM D 1928/. **Mw and Mn** were measured by GPC (Gel Permeation Chromatography) on a Waters 150 gel permeation chromatograph equipped with a differential refractive index (DRI) detector and a Chromatix KMX-6 on line light scattering photometer. The system was used at 135 °C with 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene as the mobile phase. Shodex (Showa
15 Denko America, Inc) polystyrene gel columns 802, 803, 804 and 805 were used. This technique is discussed in "Liquid Chromatography of Polymers and Related Materials III", J. Cazes editor, Marcel Dekker, 1981, p. 207, which is incorporated herein by reference. No corrections for column spreading were employed; however, data on generally accepted standards, e.g. National Bureau of Standards Polyethylene 1484 and
20 anionically produced hydrogenated polyisoprenes (an alternating ethylene-propylene copolymer) demonstrated that such corrections on Mw/Mn (= MWD) were less than 0.05 units. Mw/Mn was calculated from elution times. The numerical analyses were performed using the commercially available Beckman/CIS customized LALLS software in conjunction with the standard Gel Permeation package. Calculations
25 involved in the characterization of polymers by ¹³CNMR follow the work of F. A. Bovey in "Polymer Conformation and Configuration" Academic Press, New York, 1969.

- Dyna Impact Strength** properties (Max Force, Damaging Energy, Total Energy,
30 Damaging Travel, Total Travel) were measured according to DIN 53373.

Tensile properties (Tensile at yield, elongation at yield, tensile at break, elongation at break, and Secant Modulus) were measured according to ASTM D 882. Average secant modulus is the mathematical average of the MD Secant Modulus and the TD Secant Modulus.

- 35 **Elmendorf Tear Strength** (N/μm) was measured according to ASTM 1922.

Gloss was measured according to ASTM D2457/60°.

Dart Drop was measured according to ASTM D 1709.

Heat seal testing procedure: Seal were made on a Topwave sealing machine. The film was folded between TEFLON™ film and inserted between the sealing bars. At various
5 the sealing bars were closed with a pressure of 0.5 MPa for 0.5 seconds. The film was removed from the Top wave machine and conditioned for a minimum of 12 hours at 23 °C \pm 3 °C and 50% humidity \pm 5% humidity.

Seal Strength was tested according to the following procedure. After conditioning for a minimum of 12 hours at 23 °C \pm 3 °C and 50% humidity \pm 5% humidity, the seal
10 strength of 15mm wide sample was measured in a Zwick tensile instrument under the following conditions: speed-100 mm/min, load cell-200N, and clamp distance-50 mm.

The film was placed between the clamps and the clamps were moved apart at a speed of 100mm/min. During the test the force (N) was recorded as a function of elongation (%) . Four test specimens were measured and the average seal strength curve was
15 recorded. The seal strength was the force at which the test specimen failed.

Example 1

Eleven monolayer films 50 μ thick of various blends were blown on an Alpine extruder under the conditions in Table 1, Table 3 and Table 6. The individual polymers were
20 fed into the same extruder hopper at the same time. The blend components and test data on the resulting films are reported in Tables 2, 4, 5 and 7.

Table 1

	ECD109 95w% PP-1 5w%	ECD109 90w% PP-1 10w%	ECD109 80w% PP-1 20w%	ECD109 80w% PP-1 15w% LD-2 5w%	ECD109 75w% PP-1 20w% LD-2 5w%
Barrell temp settings (°C)					
zone 1	190	190	190	190	190
zone 2	200	200	200	199	200
zone 3	220	220	220	220	220
zone 4	220	220	220	220	220
zone 6	230	230	225	235	230
zone 7	230	230	230	224	230
zone 8	230	230	222	235	230
zone 9	240	240	239	241	240
zone 10	240	240	240	240	240
zone 11	240	240	240	240	240
zone 12	240	240	240	240	240
diegap (mm)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
cooling air temp (°C)	16	17		16	16
Die Diam (mm)	200	200	200	200	200
Melt temp. (°C)					
T1	243	240		233	233
T2	242	237		234	232
T3	245	239		237	235
T4	242	237		234	232
T5	245	242		232	233
Tmelt	237	243		235	237
Melt pressure (bar)					
P1	545	526		464	
P2	518	491		444	
P3	501	473		432	
P4	516	500		480	
P5	562	545		524	
P6	388	365		339	
screw speed	59 rpm	60 rpm		62 rpm	62 rpm
Output (kg/hr)	140	140		140	140
Lay-flat (mm)	900	900		900	900
Frost line (mm)	700	700		700	700
take off(m/min)	28	28		28	28
Blow up ratio	2.9	2.9		2.9	2.9

w% = weight percent based upon the weight of the polymers.

Table 2:

	ECD109 95w% PP-1 5w%	ECD109 90w% PP-1 10w%	ECD109 80w% PP-1 20w%	ECD109 80w% PP-1 15w% LD- 2.5w%	ECD109 75w% PP-1 20w% LD- 2.5w%
Haze (%)	19	18	22	9.5	9.7
Gloss (%)	7.8	7.1	5.4	10.7	9.9
Max Force N/ μ	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Damaging Energy mJ/ μ	20	17	12	13	11
Total Energy mJ/ μ	22	20	14	16	12
Damaging Travel (mm)	24	20	16	18	15
Total Travel (mm)	25	28	18	23	17
Tensile @ Yield (MPa) MD	14.1	16.2	18.7	16.1	18.5
Elong @ Yield (%) MD	16.1	13.1	12	16.8	14.1
Tensile @ Break (MPa) MD	61	64	62	61	60
Elong @ Break (%) MD	682	670	649	678	674
Energy MD (mJ/mm ³)	168	177	176	180	190
Tensile @ Yield (MPa) TD	14.6	15.7	17.8	16.4	18.1
Elong @ Yield (%) TD	12.5	11.2	10.0	10.0	9.9
Tensile @ Break (MPa) TD	56	57	50	54	51
Elong @ Break (%) TD	724	735	698	719	706
Energy TD (mJ/mm ³)	169	177	160	167	164
Secant Modulus (MPa) MD	335	444	548	442	539
Secant Modulus (MPa) TD	369	440	540	478	557
Average Secant Modulus (MPa)	352	442	544	460	548
Elmendorf tear (g/ μ) MD	8.9	7.8	5.6	7.1	4.3
Elmendorf Tear (g/ μ) TD	15	13	10	16	15

TD = transverse direction.

MD = machine direction.

Table 3.

	ECD103 100 w%	ECD103 95w% LD-150 5w%	ECD103 80w% PP-1 15w% LD-2 5w%	ECD103 75w% LD-2 5w%
Barrell temp settings (°C)				
zone 1	170	190	190	191
zone 2	175	200	200	201
zone 3	175	220	220	219
zone 4	175	220	220	219
zone 6	185	230	225	224
zone 7	185	230	230	230
zone 8	185	230	222	228
zone 9	190	240	239	240
zone 10	190	240	240	240
zone 11	200	240	240	240
zone 12	200	240	240	240
diegap (mm)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
cooling air temp (°C)	17	16	16	17
Die Diam ⁴ (mm)	200	200	200	200
Melt temp. (°C)				
T1	214	243	231	230
T2	227	248	235	234
T3	233	252	238	236
T4	226	248	234	233
T5	211	242	231	230
Tmelt	206	243	230	231
Melt pressure (bar)				
P1	440	234	276	245
P2	437	278	301	275
P3	456	316	370	305
P4	517	400	397	378
P5	600	465	446	425
P6	414	326	304	288
screw speed	52 rpm	68 rpm	67 rpm	68 rpm
Output (kg/hr)	133	138	139	141
Lay-flat (mm)	930	900	900	900
Frost line (mm)	600	700	700	700
take off(m/min)	26	28	28	28
blow up ratio	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9

w% = weight percent based upon the weight of the polymers.

Table 4

	ECD103 100%	ECD103 95w% LD 150 5 w%	ECD103 80w% PP-1 15w% LD-2 5w%	ECD103 75w% PP-1 20w% LD-2 5w%
Haze (%)	25	5.4	3.7	4.7
Gloss (%)	5.8	12.9	13.0	12.0
Max Force N/ μ	>1.7	>1.7	1.4	1.4
Damaging Energy mJ/ μ	>47	>47	24	22
Total Energy mJ/ μ	>47	>47	26	25
Damaging Travel (mm)	>44	>44	26	24
Total Travel (mm)	>44	>44	28	27
Tensile @ Yield (Mpa) MD	10.0	10.2	15.2	15.9
Elong @ Yield (%) MD	13.9	13.6	16	15.4
Tensile @ Break (MPa) MD	69	62	65	64
Elong @ Break (%) MD	613	642	637	653
Energy MD (mJ/mm ³)	143	148	173	178
Tensile @ Yield (Mpa) TD	9.7	10.5	13.6	14.3
Elong @ Yield (%) TD	20.0	16.6	12.0	12.0
Tensile @ Break (MPa) TD	60	59	56	56
Elong @ Break (%) TD	661	671	692	688
Energy TD (mJ/mm ³)	140	144	157	158
Secant Modulus (MPa) MD	183	202	395	443
Secant Modulus (MPa) TD	189	221	361	394
Average Secant Modulus (MPa)	186	212	378	419
Elmendorf tear (g/ μ) MD	12	12	13	12
Elmendorf Tear (g/ μ) TD	14	17	16	16

Table 5 Heat Seal Strength (N/15mm) of 50 micron films

Heat Seal Temp	ECD 103 95 w% LD-2 5 w%	ECD 103 75 w% PP-1 20 w% LD-2 5w%	ECD 109 75 w% PP-1 20 w% LD-2 5w%
110 °C	6.0	0.7	
120°C	9.5	11.5	1.2
130°C	10.0	12.3	13.1
140°C	9.2	11.3	13.4
150°C	11.1	11.0	13.1
160°C	12.0	10.7	12.5
180°C	11.7	11.0	12.6

Table 6

	EE-3 80w% LD-150 20w%	ECD202 80w% PP-1 15w% LD-2 5w%
Barrell temp settings (°C)		
zone 1	170	170
zone 2	175	175
zone 3	175	180
zone 4	175	190
zone 6	185	190
zone 7	185	190
zone 8	190	195
zone 9	190	215
zone 10	190	215
zone 11	200	225
zone 12	200	225
diegap (mm)	1.5	1.5
cooling air temp (°C)	15	15
Die Diam (mm)	200	200
Melt temp. (°C)		
T1	197	197
T2	205	205
T3	209	219
T4	204	204
T5	196	196
Tmelt	196	196
Melt pressure (bar)		
P1	563	201
P2	620	207
P3	595	210
P4	556	207
P5	552	200
P6	412	200
screw speed	41 rpm	44 rpm
Output (kg/hr)	100	95
Lay-flat (mm)	785	785
Frost line (mm)	500	500
take off(m/min)	50	62
blow up ratio	2.5	2.5

w% = weight percent based upon the weight of the polymers.

Table 7

	LL-3 80w% LD-150 20w%	ECD202 80w% PP-1 15w% LD-2 5w%
Haze (%)	2.7	3.8
Gloss (%)	13.6	12.2
Tensile @ Break (MPa) MD	68.1	98.1
Elong @ Break (%) MD	474	552
Tensile @ Break (MPa) TD	35.4	49.4
Elong @ Break (%) TD	815	695
Secant Modulus (MPa) MD	407	337
Secant Modulus (MPa) TD	502	316
Dart Drop (g/ μ m)	3.1	8.1
Elmendorf tear (g/ μ) MD	0.3	4.0
Elmendorf Tear (g/ μ) TD	13.7	15.7

All documents described herein are incorporated by reference herein, including any priority documents and/or testing procedures. As is apparent from the foregoing general description and the specific embodiments, while forms of the invention have been illustrated and described, various modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, it is not intended that the invention be limited thereby.

What is claimed is:

1. A film comprising a blend comprising:
 - (i) a homopolymer of ethylene having an Mw/Mn of 3 or less or a copolymer of ethylene and up to 50 weight% of a C₃ to C₂₀ olefin having a CDBI of 50 % or more,
 - (ii) a homopolymer of propylene or copolymer of propylene and up to 50 weight % of a comonomer, and
 - (iii) a polymer produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator.
2. The film of claim 1 wherein the copolymer of ethylene is a copolymer of ethylene and propylene, butene, hexene and/or octene.
3. The film of claim 2 wherein the copolymer of ethylene has a CDBI of 65 to 85 %, a density of 0.915 g/cm³ to 0.96 g/cm³ and an Mw/Mn of between 1 and 2.5.
4. The film of claim 2 wherein the copolymer of ethylene has a CDBI between 80 and 99%, and a density of 0.88 g/cm³ to 0.925 g/cm³.
5. The film of claim 3 or 4 wherein the film is characterized by a haze of 5 % or less.
6. The film of claim 1 wherein the polymer produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator is low density polyethylene or ethylene vinyl acetate.
7. The film of claim 1 wherein the polyethylene component comprises a blend of the homopolymer of ethylene or the copolymer of ethylene and another polyolefin, and/or the polypropylene component comprises a blend of the homopolymer or copolymer of propylene and another polyolefin.
8. The film of claim 1 characterized in that when formed into a 50 µm thick film has an average secant modulus greater than 350 MPa and a dart drop impact strength greater than 5 g/micron.
9. The film of claim 1 wherein the film is sealed.

10. A multilayer film wherein a non-surface layer comprise the film of claim 1.

11. A multi layer film wherein at least one surface layer comprises the film of claim

1. 12. The film of claim 1 wherein the film has been oriented.

13. The film of claim 1 wherein the film is co-extruded.

14. The film of claim 1 wherein the film is cast, blown or co-extruded and the

polyethylene is present at 50 to 80 weight %, the polypropylene is present at 10 to 45 weight % and polymer produced in high pressure process using a free radical initiator is LDPE and is present at 2 to 10 weight %, based upon the weight of the blend.

15. The film of claim 1 or 14 wherein the film is laminated to a substrate.

16. The film of claim 15 wherein the substrate is polypropylene, polyamide, polyester,

polyethylene, or metallized substrates.

17. A method to produce a film characterized by good haze values comprising:

i) selecting a first polymer having a CDBI of 50 % or more comprising homopolyethylene or a copolymer of ethylene and up to 50 weight % of a C_3 to C_{20} olefin,

ii) selecting a second polymer comprising homopolypropylene or a copolymer of propylene and up to 50 weight % of ethylene or a C_4 to C_{20} olefin,

iii) selecting a third polymer comprising one or more polymers produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator, and

iv) combining the first, second and third polymers and forming them into a film.

18. A method of packaging an article comprising:

i) selecting a first polymer having a CDBI of 50 % or more comprising homopolyethylene or a copolymer of ethylene and up to 50 weight % of a C_3 to C_{20} olefin,

ii) selecting a second polymer comprising homopolypropylene or a copolymer of propylene and up to 50 weight % of ethylene or a C_4 to C_{20} olefin,

iii) selecting optional polymers for core layers,

- iv) combing the first polymer and second polymer so that the first polymer forms all or part of a film surface layer and the second polymer forms all or part of a film surface layer and, if present, the optional polymers for core layers are formed into film layers in between the first surface layer and the second surface layer,
- v) enclosing an article in the film, and
- vi) heat sealing the enclosed article such that at least one seal is formed by heat sealing the first surface layer to the second surface layer.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intr. International Application No.

PCI/US 98/03597

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C08L23/10 C08L23/08 C08L23/04 C08J5/18 B32B27/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C08L C08J B32B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 97 28960 A (TREDEGAR IND INC) 14 August 1997 see page 1, line 27 see page 2, line 4 - line 27 see page 4, line 16 - line 27 see page 6, line 21 - page 7, line 19 ---	1-18
X	US 5 424 362 A (HWANG YUH-CHIN ET AL) 13 June 1995 see column 7, line 39 - line 42; claims ---	1-9, 17
X	WO 92 14784 A (EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS) 3 September 1992	18
Y	see page 3, line 28 - line 29; claims; example IX --- -/-	1-18

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int'l Application No

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